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Mobility in family networks

Rubin, Ori

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Mobility in family networks

Travel behaviour and contact in families

Ori Rubin

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Mobility in family networks

Travel behaviour and contact in families

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Promotores

Prof. dr. C. H. Mulder

Prof. dr. ir. L. Bertolini

Beoordelingscommissie

Prof. dr. D. Manting

Prof. dr. E. J. M. M Arts

Prof. dr. M. Lanzendorf

Preface

The theme of this research is the *family*. This thesis would not have been written and completed without the generous help and support of the many families I am fortunate to have. Once a reviewer commented on a paper I submitted that I did not provide a definition for family. The following text just shows how difficult it is to provide such a definition.

To my academic family I owe the unique opportunity I was given to spend time on studying a topic that touches everyone's lives. First and foremost I would like to thank my two wonderful and patient supervisors Clara Mulder and Luca Bertolini. I cannot imagine a more complete combination: Clara, the ever precise and thorough, whose perseverance I can only envy; and Luca, whose dedication to the cause of research and inspiring vision helped me to never forget the wider picture. Thank you both!

In this thesis I made an extensive use of the LISS data collected and provided by CentERdata, through the work of Marije Oudejans and Annette Scherpenzeel. All road distance data used in this thesis were calculated with the help of the *Bereikbaarheidskaart* provided by Goudappel Couffeng and Thomas Straatemeier. Thank you very much for the help and cooperation!

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It is often hard to draw the border between "colleagues" and "friends" but throughout the four years I spent on this project there were a few crucial moments when this border blurred more than ever: going with Lucas to a conference in Rio – I never thought a Dutch person could be so funny; convincing Billie to move in with me in the Diephuisstraat – I wish I were as good a listener as you are; my two *paranimfen*: having Carla work in the office next door – there are no words to describe how much I needed your advice(s); Debbie – your excellence is inspiring. To ask you to be my *paranimf* was the best decision of 2015 and my life aim is to convince you that Amsterdam *is* a great city.

For the second Diephuisstraat resident Nikoletta and the extended resident Katharina – thank you for the joint dinners, which I hope will continue, and for being the smart and great friends you are. For Sepideh – when I thought of what kind of people I want to meet and couldn't unless I would study outside of Israel, I had someone like you in mind.

Bridging my academic family and my chosen family a special place is reserved to Tali – my friend and companion on the academic journey. Luckily for me, back in 2012 she won the prize for the best thesis of her year. Otherwise I would not have seen her name in the newsletter and I would have missed a great, funny, critical and extremely talented friend. Thank you for all the cookies, cakes and coffee's and for being a friend.

There are not many Israelis in the Netherlands but my friendship with one of them goes back to 1999 where we met for the first time during our military service in Tel Aviv and later when we travelled together in Australia. Itai – thanks to you I moved to the Netherlands and ever since 2009 I know that I have someone to rely on close-by. The complexity of social networks these days is best demonstrated by another member of my Israeli-Dutch network I got to know by chance; he happened to live next door in Groningen, of all places. Lior the ultimate urbanite – I never quite understood your decision to leave Berlin and then Stockholm, but every time we meet I am thankful for that.

To the Israeli branch of my chosen family: Ronen – after living together in the city we love, having 3,000km of separation is not easy and technology can never replace the real thing. Thank you for being my friend. Ariella, Limor, Ruth, Ruthie, Tamar, Dror, Ithai, Roy and all other beloved friends – I am lucky to have you and I miss you all daily. Special thanks to Michal, who is not only a dear friend, but also designed the amazing cover for this book. I hope your talent will take you to wonderful places. And to the "Dutch" branch, especially dear Jennifer, now that we are quasi next-door neighbours, lets increase our face-to-face contact frequency.

My biological family is no less complex and of no less importance: my mom and dad, who migrated to give their children a chance for a better life, who gave me the game where you need to match a flag to a country when I was 4 and my first atlas when I was 7, from whom I inherited a relentless travel fever – thank you for your support. I do my best to make you proud. To my *Sydneysider* brother Eytan who taught me how to chop a tomato and ride a bicycle and my *Seattleite* sister Irit who taught me how to tie my shoelaces – you show me the way. To my multinational Israeli/ Australian/ British/ American/ French nephews and nieces Reuben, Jonathan, Yeheli, Nivi and the one who is on her way – you are the 21st century. I love you very much!

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And to Maarten – my true hero, whose strength and talent cannot be described. Maarten commented on all chapters in this book, designed a poster I presented, makes me want to cook for him all day, is the best travel-mate I could have hoped for, and every decision I make relies on his advice. Our journey together is the best.

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Ori

Amsterdam, May 2016

Table of contents

Overview of the empirical chapters	15
1 Introduction	17
1.1 Motivation	19
1.2 The family network	20
1.3 Travelling for family meetings	22
1.4 Thesis outline	25
1.5 References	28
2 The determinants of mode choice for family visits – evidence from dutch panel data	33
2.1 Introduction	35
2.2 Background	36
2.3 Data and methods	38
2.4 Descriptive statistics	43
2.5 Multinomial logistic regression	46
2.6 Conclusions and discussion	55
2.7 References	57
3 Contact between parents and adult children: the role of time constraints, commuting and automobility	61
3.1 Introduction	63
3.2 Background	64
3.3 Data and methods	68
3.4 Descriptive findings	70
3.5 Results	75
3.6 Conclusions and discussion	81
3.7 References	83
4 Who visits whom? the balance of intergenerational face-to-face contact	87
4.1 Introduction	89
4.2 Background	90
4.3 Data and Methods	93
4.4 Results	96
4.5 Conclusion and discussion	103
4.6 References	106

5	Social and environmental sustainability of travelling within family networks	109
5.1	Introduction	111
5.2	Conceptual framework	113
5.3	Data	115
5.4	Descriptive Results	117
5.5	Results of Path Analysis	119
5.6	Opportunities and constraints for policy	124
5.7	Conclusion	127
5.8	References	129
6	Conclusions and discussion	133
6.1	Summary of the findings	135
6.2	Reflection on recurrent themes	139
6.3	Reflections on data and methods	142
6.4	Future research and policy implications	146
6.5	References	149
	Nederlandse samenvatting	153

List of tables

Table 2.1	Main mode used for visiting family by wave and by type of dyad (%)	43
Table 2.2	Descriptive statistics for independent variables (%)	44
Table 2.3	Multinomial regression results for mode choice for ego-parents (base: car)	48
Table 2.4	Commute mode vs. mode for visiting parents	51
Table 2.5	Multinomial regression results for mode choice for ego-sibling (base: car)	52
Table 3.1	Descriptive statistics for categorical and continuous independent variables	72
Table 3.2	Distribution of annual frequency of contact for face-to-face and telecommunication-based contact, by categorical independent variable	74
Table 3.3	Results for bivariate ordered probit regression; dependent variable: frequency of contact	76
Table 3.4	Interactions of main explanatory variables with gender; dependent variable: frequency of contact	80
Table 4.1	Descriptive statistics	97
Table 4.2	Results for OLS regressions; dependent variable: RF	101
Table 5.1	Descriptive statistics for categorical and continuous variables	118
Table 5.2	Model fit indices	120
Table 5.3	Decomposition of effects for selected variables	122
Table 5.4	Total effects of endogenous and exogenous variables	123

List of figures

Figure 2.1 Distribution of dyads by distance category and dyad type	46
Figure 3.1 Annual frequency of contact between respondents and their parents – Face-to-face (%)	71
Figure 3.2 Annual frequency of contact between respondents and their parents – telecom (%)	71
Figure 4.1 The possible locations of siblings in the family network	95
Figure 4.2 Relative Frequency and F2F contact frequency	99
Figure 5.1 Potential relationships between environmental and social sustainability	114
Figure 5.2 Model explaining CO2 output for meetings between adult children and parents	115
Figure 5.3 Relative frequency of contact and CO2 output by geographical region and type residential location	119
Figure 5.4 Significant total effects	121

Overview of the empirical chapters

Chapters 2 through 5 are a modified version of these publications and manuscripts:

Chapter 2

Rubin, O., Mulder, C. H., & Bertolini, L. (2014). The determinants of mode choice for family visits – evidence from Dutch panel data. *Journal of Transport Geography*, 38, 137-147.
doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jtrangeo.2014.06.004>

Chapter 3

Rubin, O. (2015). Contact between parents and adult children: The role of time constraints, commuting and automobility. *Journal of Transport Geography*, 49, 76-84.
doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jtrangeo.2015.10.013>

Chapter 4

Rubin, O., & Mulder, C. H. (under review). Who visits whom? The balance of intergenerational face-to-face contact.
This manuscript was submitted to an international peer-reviewed journal.

Chapter 5

Rubin, O., & Bertolini, L. (under review). Social and environmental sustainability of travelling within family networks.
This manuscript was submitted to an international peer-reviewed journal.

